International Film Festival in Goa

†3323. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether previous Government had decided to hold International Film Festival permanently in Goa;

(b) if so, whether that decision has been changed; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No final decision has been taken about the status of permanent venue. However, Government has already announced that IFFI 2005 will be held at Goa.

Community Radio Centres

3324. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the response to the community radio centres;

(b) how many community radio centres are presently in operation;

(c) how much foreign direct investment is allowed in the FM radio segment under existing norms;

(d) if not, whether Government are planning to liberalise the policies to enable foreign investment to come in to the sector; and

(e) if so, by when and the broad details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Ministry has received 68 applications, which are under process in accordance with the Guidelines laid down for grant of Community Radio Licenses. Letters of Intent have been issued to 30 institutions and License Agreement has been signed with 20 institutions.

(b) At present, seven community radio stations are in various stages of becoming operational.

(c) Foreign direct investment is not allowed under the existing norms.

(d) and (e) In view of (c) above, question doesn't arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.